

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 05730 061123Z

ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INSE-00

CIAE-00 VO-05 CA-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 /057 W

-----035249 061126Z /16

O 061049Z MAY 78

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0242

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: IPP-78 INDOCHINA REFUGEES ON BOARD SIBONGA

REF: BANGKOK 13008 AND 13012

1. ISSUE AT HAND IS THAT HONG KONG GOVT DOES NOT WANT TO GRANT REFUGEES ON BOARD SIBONGA FIRST ASYLUM. HONG KONG GOVT WOULD LIKE US TO PROCESS THOSE REFUGEES ELIGIBLE FOR U.S. WITHIN FOUR DAYS, WHICH WE CANNOT DO.

2. SINCE THE FIVE REFUGEES NOTED IN REFTELS APPEAR TO BE CATEGORY I, REAL QUESTION IS WHERE THEY SHOULD BE PROCESSED FOR U.S. THAT IS, IN LONDON OR IN HONG KONG. IF ALL 17 FLY TO UK AS COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM, THOSE FIVE REFUGEES APPEAR TO HAVE RIGHT TO APPLY TO U.S. DESPITE UK OFFER OF RESETTLEMENT.

3. DEPT MAY WISH TO TAKE A POSITION REGARDING THE PROCESSING OF INDOCHINA BOAT CASE REFUGEES IN EUROPE. THE REFUGEES FROM NORWEGIAN TANKER STOVE WENT TO NORWAY AS COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM AND REFUGEES ON SIBONGA ALSO MAY DO THIS. FURTHER, WE HAVE SKETCHY INFORMATION
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THAT A GERMAN-OWNED SINGAPORE FLAG SHIP HAS BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND 64 REFUGEES ON THAT SHIP IN SINGAPORE. AGENTS FOR SHIP REPORTEDLY SEEKING SOLUTION AND MAY HIT UPON IDEA OF FLYING THOSE REFUGEES TO GERMANY AS COUNTRY OF FIRST ASYLUM IF PORT OF DISEMBARKATION CAN BE FOUND.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FROM DEPT ON WHAT TO TELL

HONG KONG GOVT REGARDING THE REFUGEES ON BOARD SIBONGA.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES, SIBONGA M/V
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Decaption Note:
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Litigation History:
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